



Master Senior Officer  
**Teresa Hollon**  
Georgetown Police Department

KELLY FOREMAN | PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICER

**G**eorgetown Police Master Senior Officer Teresa Hollon finds her purpose in serving the people of her community, whether that’s through domestic violence classes, keeping businesses with alcohol licenses compliant or investigating cases while she’s on patrol. An Estill County native, Hollon served two years with the Irvine Police Department before joining Georgetown’s ranks in 2002. She is dedicated to working each day to learn something new and make a difference.

**Ever since I was a little kid,** I remember watching shows on TV and I knew I wanted to be a police officer. That’s the path I followed. I couldn’t be talked out of it.

**I had a mom and dad who** always told me to follow my dreams. Most children don’t get that, but I did. Obviously they were kind of scared, but they were always very supportive of me.

**I teach domestic violence and Safety and Awareness for Everyone** self-defense classes. I teach whenever I can. I became interested in domestic violence because I was touched by a DV case. When I was an officer in Irvine, I had just gotten out of the academy, and I remember the call to this day. I was with a partner and we went to a house for a DV call, and I had a gun pointed at my head. Every officer deals with DV — it’s something we see here on a daily basis. If I can help just one person, I think I’ve done my job.

**I teach about how to get out of it** — how to break that cycle of domestic violence. I teach some of the warning signs, so we can help them and to know they’re not alone. We have a citizen’s police academy and I talk to them as well. I talk to any community organization. I have talked to some of the shelters here that have clients who have been through domestic violence. I’ll talk to anyone who requests it.

**For the longest time,** I was the only female officer on patrol, so everyone knows me by my first name. Where I have taught these classes, I have had people come up to me on the street and tell me that because I taught this class, I helped them see or helped them get out of a situation. There is a lot of satisfaction in that. I like

“*The day you stop learning is the day you should quit. There’s always a new law, there is always something new to learn.*”

Robert Byrne’s quote, ‘The purpose of life is a life of purpose.’ Again, if I can just teach one person, and that person teaches one person, and that person teaches one person — it’s a share the love kind of thing.

**Georgetown recently became a wet city,** and I am a part of the alcohol compliance education section. We make sure all the businesses are compliant with alcohol sales laws and state and city ordinances. We check restaurants, gas stations and businesses.

**Otherwise I do patrol work.** I’m on first shift from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. It’s based on seniority. I’ve been here long enough to pick what shift I want. The only thing you’re hopefully guaranteed is to clock in and to clock out. In between, you’re on the roller coaster ride. You don’t know what’s going to happen for that day.

I enjoy it. The uncertainty keeps it interesting. You might come in one day and nothing happens, but the next day when you come in you may work four car wrecks, a shots fired call, and not sit down the entire day.

**What I like about this job most is** the camaraderie with my people. I like working with my co-workers because they can either make it enjoyable or they can make it miserable. Ninety-nine percent of the time they make it enjoyable. You have to imagine — it’s a 10 hour day — so I see them more than I see my family. So they are like my family. We have known each other for so long, they are my brothers.

**This job can put stress on your life** and it can take a toll on you. I think you have to find a hobby to make you think about other things. Because in this job, you have seen the worst of the worst. When you go home and take off the uniform, you HAVE to take off the uniform. You have to spend time with your family. You have to do that hobby. You have to know that when it’s 5:00, it’s 5:00. It’s time to go home.

**I like to go fishing.** Fishing is very stress relieving for me. I also like to vacation — anywhere there’s a beach. My husband, Jeff, retired from law enforcement. He was injured in the line of duty. He worked for the Scott County Sheriff’s Office at the time and was in a car wreck. I was off duty when I got the call, so I didn’t have to respond to the scene. He’s doing fine now.

**Being a female — that’s the one thing everybody asks me about!** There are a total of three females at Georgetown. I have said from the beginning that I am no different from any other male officer here. Women are just as good as men in law enforcement. When I talk to kids, I tell them to follow their dreams, that they can be anything they want to be. My mom and dad raised me that way, and that’s why they didn’t deter me from law enforcement.

**It can definitely be a benefit,** being female. When I go to a scene, sometimes, I think people underestimate me because of my size and because I’m female. There are times I can use that to my advantage, because I can talk myself out of certain situations. On the other hand, I’m not afraid to fight anybody. You cannot be afraid to fight in this job. You have to be able to stand toe to toe with the other officers.

**You learn something new every day.** The day you stop learning is the day you should quit. There’s always a new law, there is always something new to learn. For the older officers, I think you have to come in and have that expectation of learning, even if it’s something small. The younger officers, I would say you have to know what you’re getting into. It’s not like it is on TV. But you can make a difference, if you truly want to be in this job. 🐾

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